

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
providing a set of predetermined function definitions ~~which are different~~; and
preparing a project definition, said project definition including:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function definitions in said set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition, one of said function portions also defining a control port which is functionally related to said input and output ports thereof according to the corresponding function definition, said one function portion being configured to process image information according to the corresponding function definition in a manner which varies under control of information at said control port;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination;

information which includes a definition of control information for said control port of said one function portion; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports;

wherein said preparing step includes the step of preparing said one function portion for inclusion in said project definition by permitting interactive user adjustment of working information which will become said control information, while simultaneously displaying a sample image processed according to the function definition corresponding to said one function portion as characterized by the current state of the working information.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1,

wherein said step of providing said set of said function definitions includes the step of including in said set a selected function definition which can add to an image a specified effect having characteristics determined by control input supplied to said selected function definition; and

wherein said step of preparing said one function portion includes the step of indicating that said one function portion corresponds to said selected function definition, said control information of said one function portion being provided for use as the control input for said selected function definition.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said step of including said selected function definition in said set includes the step of selecting as said selected function definition a bevel function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a bevel effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said bevel function definition.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said step of including said selected function definition in said set includes the step of selecting as said selected function definition a blur function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a blurring effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said blur function definition.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said step of including said selected function definition in said set includes the step of selecting as said selected function definition a tint function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a tint effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said tint function definition.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said step of including said selected function definition in said set includes the step of selecting as said selected function definition an image adding function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a further image having characteristics determined by the control input to said image adding function definition.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said step of including said selected function definition in said set includes the step of selecting as said selected function definition a text adding function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a text string having characteristics determined by the control input to said text adding function definition.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which recognizes a set of predetermined function definitions ~~that are different~~; said program being operable when executed to facilitate preparation of a project definition which includes:

a plurality of function portions which each correspond to one of said function definitions in said set, and which each define at least one input port and at least one output port that are functionally related according to the corresponding function definition, one of said function portions also defining a control port which is functionally related to said input and output ports thereof according to the corresponding function definition, said one function portion being configured to process image information according to the corresponding function definition in a manner which varies under control of information at said control port;

a further portion which includes a source portion identifying a data source and defining an output port through which data from the data source can be produced, and which includes a destination portion identifying a data destination and defining an input port through which data can be supplied to the data destination;

information which includes a definition of control information for said control port of said one function portion; and

binding information which includes binding portions that each associate a respective said input port with one of said output ports;

said program being further operable when executed to carry out the preparation of said one function portion in a manner which includes permitting interactive user adjustment of working information which will become said control information, while simultaneously displaying a sample image processed according to the function definition corresponding to said one function portion as characterized by the current state of the working information.

9. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 8, wherein said program is operable when executed to:

recognize that said set of said function definitions includes a selected function definition which can add to an image a specified effect having characteristics determined by control input supplied to said selected function definition; and

carry out said preparation of said one function portion in a manner which includes indicating that said one function portion corresponds to said selected function definition, said control information of said one function portion being provided for use as the control input for said selected function definition.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein said program is operable when executed to recognize as said selected function definition a bevel function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a bevel effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said bevel function definition.

11. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein said program is operable when executed to recognize as said selected function definition a blur function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a blurring effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said blur function definition.

12. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein said program is operable when executed to recognize as said selected function definition a tint function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a tint effect having characteristics determined by the control input to said tint function definition.

13. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein said program is operable when executed to recognize as said selected function definition an image adding function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a further image having characteristics determined by the control input to said image adding function definition.

14. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein said program is operable when executed to recognize as said selected function definition a text adding function definition for which said specified effect is the addition to an image of a text string having characteristics determined by the control input to said text adding function definition.